

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

DRAFT 4-13-2010

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Shaft, William C. & Jane, House

other names/site number 017-0000-0097

2. Location

street & number 1682 FP Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Cedar Point ☐ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Chase code 017 zip code 66843

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Kansas Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other,

(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Shaft, William C. & Jane, House
Name of Property

Chase County, KS
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

Sites

structures

objects

1

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular: Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone

walls Stone: Limestone

roof Metal

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Shaft, William C. & Jane, House
Name of Property

Chase County, KS
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration / Settlement

Architecture

Period of Significance

1857-1903

Significant Dates

1857, 1868

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historic Preservation Office

Shaft, William C. & Jane, House
Name of Property

Chase County, KS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.9 acres

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 Zone Easting Northing
4 _____
☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret W Dyck
organization _____ date February 21, 2010
street & number 9802 W 131 Street telephone 913-220-3363
city or town Overland Park state Kansas zip code 66213-4303

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Eric L and Margaret W Dyck
street & number 9802 W 131 Street telephone 913-220-3363
city or town Overland Park state Kansas zip code 66213

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Shaft, William C. & Jane, House
Chase County, Kansas

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Summary

The William C. and Jane P. Shaft House is located northeast of Clements in the southwest corner of Chase County, Kansas. Specifically, the house is accessed by a gravel county road and situated along Silver Creek in the middle of the original 160-acre pre-empted homestead. Two creeks merge along the northern edge of the homestead. Silver Creek is a tributary of the Cottonwood River and “was named by William C. Shaft after a creek in Michigan.” Feeding into Silver Creek is Cogshell Creek, which was also named by Shaft “after a teacher named Cogshell who taught school in the Shaft home.”¹

The home is surrounded by natural timber of about 35-40 acres. The remaining land of the 160-acre farm is tilled cropland, which had been native tall grass prairie that was cleared by the Shafts. A dry-laid stone fence built by members of the Shaft family still surrounds about one-half of the 160 acres. Also extant is a late nineteenth century wood barn. A county road divides the farm and separates the house and barn. The county road, which follows the old immigrant and pioneer trail that connected Council Grove and Florence,² crosses the merged creeks on a stone bridge built in the 1860s and maintained by the county. The nominated property includes only the house and 0.9 acres.

Elaboration

William C. Shaft pre-empted the quarter section in 1857, and built a small stone house by December of the same year. The east-facing house featured a side-gabled roof with an inset front porch set beneath the main gable roof and supported by full-height columns. This porch was enclosed in 1965. An interior chimney pierced the roofline at the north end of the gable peak. Today, this chimney shaft is located on the exterior of the north elevation. A small wood-frame addition with a concrete foundation and a shed roof was added to the rear (west) elevation in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

A substantial two-story stone addition with a stone foundation was added to the south elevation of the house in 1868. The Shaft’s sons, who included William H., David, John, Clay, and Martin, built the addition to the house for their mother with limestone quarried from the bluffs west of the house and walnut from trees in the homestead timber. This two-story rectangular limestone addition has an east-facing gable roof and added to the south (side) elevation. It features a considerable amount of masonry craftsmanship. The stones for the front (east elevation) of the house were dressed more formally than the remainder of the house. The east (front) elevation of the addition includes dressed limestone blocks, raised stone sills and lintels with decorative carvings at the corners, and a name and date stone within the gable that reads “Jane Shaft 1868.”

¹ *Chase County Historical Sketches, Vol. 1* (Cottonwood Falls, KS: Chase County Historical Society, 1940), 17.

² *Ibid.*, 14-15.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Shaft, William C. & Jane, House
Chase County, Kansas

The windowsills are made of a single piece of dressed stone. An interior limestone chimney is found at the peak of the gable. There are four symmetrically placed wood windows (six-over-six, double-hung) on this east elevation – two on each story. The wood windows are assembled with wooden pegs and weighted cords.

The south (side) elevation includes three symmetrically placed wood windows (six-over-six, double-hung) on each story of the two stories. The stones are less formally dressed and the stone lintels and sills contain no decorative elements. The sills, however, are slightly raised. The corners of the addition contain quoining.

The west (rear) elevation of the 1868 section includes one double-hung wood window (six-over-six) on the second story. An interior limestone chimney is found at the peak of the gable. Like the building's other secondary elevations, the limestone is less formally finished. The noteworthy decorative features on this elevation include the raised stone windowsill and quoining at the corners.

There is a full-height, unfinished basement beneath the 1868 section of the house. Access to the basement is from the exterior using a set of steps at the building's southwest corner. A cellar door covers the steps when they are not in use.

The roof was originally covered with wood shingles and contained a gutter system that deposited rainwater in an underground cistern at the back of the house. Today, the roof is covered with standing-seam metal and the gutter system is no longer extant, but the cistern remains.

The original homestead included another stone building used as a smoke house. This building was demolished in the 1960s. Some of the stone was used to build the retaining wall for the modern day elevated driveway. There was also a small family cemetery south of the house, but this plot was cleared after the 1951 flood, and the salvaged gravestones and remains were moved to the nearby Clements Cemetery.

Interior

One enters the house through a door at the northeast corner of the building, which leads into the original 1857 section. A twentieth century kitchen is located just inside the front entrance along the east wall. Located along the north wall of the 1858 section is a fireplace with a wood Federal-style surround. The fireplace is flanked by full-height built-in cabinets. Along the west wall is a door leading to the back porch flanked by two double-hung wood windows (six-over-six). The historic wood baseboards and trim surrounding the window and door openings is simple and unadorned.

The 1868 section of the house is accessed through a door in the south wall of the kitchen. Along the north wall of this later section is a staircase leading to the second floor bedrooms. The first floor rooms include a parlor or sitting room at the southeast corner and a bedroom at the southwest corner. There are two bedrooms and a loft upstairs. All historic wood windows are intact. The wood trim throughout the 1868 section is of particular interest. It is especially wide with multiple straight grooves and features a mitered

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number

7

Page

3

Shaft, William C. & Jane, House
Chase County, Kansas

edge (no corner blocks). The windows display the thickness of the stone walls with their tapered sides and deep interior sills.

Interior wall and ceiling finishes are plaster. Some walls feature later wallpaper in some areas and twentieth century wood paneling in other areas. Much of the house includes carpeted floors, but the original wood floors are exposed in some spaces, such as the stairs and the second floor hallway.

The house was modernized with indoor plumbing and electricity in 1949, and an enclosed back porch was added. A furnace for the first floor rooms was added in 1950. In 1965, the front porch was enclosed to accommodate an updated kitchen and dining room. This represents the only major change to the exterior of the house. The front door was moved to the north side. In the 1980s, a new firebox was installed in the original fireplace, and a new stone chimney was added to the exterior of the north side of the house. Modern storm windows are now installed on all windows except for the attic windows on the older section of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 Shaft, William C. & Jane, House
Chase County, Kansas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Shaft House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with exploration and early settlement in Chase County and under Criterion C for its mid-nineteenth century vernacular stone architecture. This house reflects the earliest period of development after the opening of the Kansas Territory in 1854. Additionally, its history represents the hardships and successes of early settlers.

Elaboration

The Kansas Territory officially opened for settlement in 1854, but the area now known as east-central Kansas, had witnessed Euro-American travelers passing through on the Santa Fe Trail since the 1820s. The trail gained significance as a military route in the mid-1840s during the Mexican War, and traffic increased after the 1849 Gold Rush. The earliest settlement in the area took place around Council Grove along the Santa Fe Trail in the mid-1850s. William C. Shaft made his way to the Kansas Territory from Michigan in 1857.³ With 549 residents, Chase County was organized in 1859 just five years after the territory opened for settlement and two years prior to Kansas' statehood.

William Common Shaft and Jane Parker were married March 26, 1837 in Michigan. They bought 160 acres of land in Michigan and farmed there for 20 years. They operated the stage line from Howell to Detroit, Michigan. They had ten children while in Michigan: William H., Carolyn, Mary, John, Clay, Martin, Jessie, David, and Daniel.⁴ One daughter died in infancy. The youngest daughter, Jessie, was born April 11, 1857, the same month that the family sold their Michigan holdings and loaded two wagons with goods. On April 23, 1857, the family left Michigan with the two wagons, the older children riding along on horses. The Shafts rented a farm in Chariton County, Missouri. A farmer agreed to pay the family with room and crop if they would break the sod for planting. Forty acres were soon planted with corn. William C. and his oldest son William H. left for the Kansas Territory in early June of 1857. They crossed the Missouri River at Fort Leavenworth. They traveled southwest to Council Grove and then on to the Cottonwood Valley in then-Wise County.⁵ The father and son pre-empted and filed claim to 160 acres each. Typical of early settlement patterns in Kansas, they built a small cabin on the claim and later enlarged it. William C. then returned to Missouri while William H. remained to watch the claims and build stock corrals.

³ Much of this information about the Shaft family's early experiences in Kansas is taken from an account written by Jessie Shaft Cope, the daughter of William C. and Jane P. Shaft, in a written recollection dated June 24, 1928. This recollection is indexed with the Lilla Day Monroe Collection of Pioneer Stories, Kansas Historical Society.

⁴ *Chase County Historical Sketches, Vol. 1* (Cottonwood Falls, KS: Chase County Historical Society, 1940), 378.

⁵ Wise County was named after Governor Henry A. Wise (1806-1876) of Virginia, who, in April of 1859, had the authority to commute John Brown's death sentence for his actions at Harper's Ferry, but instead allowed the execution to take place. The 1859 Kansas Territorial legislature then divided Wise County into Chase and Morris Counties. *Chase County Historical Sketches, Vol. 1* (Cottonwood Falls, KS: Chase County Historical Society, 1940), 12-13.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 Shaft, William C. & Jane, House
Chase County, Kansas

William C. arrived back in Missouri in time for fall harvest. He gathered the family and they relocated to the claim along Silver Creek by December 1857. The Shafts were one of the few settled families in the area north of present-day Clements at that time.

In early April of 1858, William C. traveled north to Council Grove to get mail and supplies. On his return trip, he drowned while trying to cross Diamond Creek at Harris Crossing. His wife Jane then planned to take the family back to Michigan, but her family persuaded her to stay. At this time, the nearest post office was twenty-five miles north in Council Grove and there were very few neighbors to rely upon. Death, droughts, grasshopper infestations, and prairie fires tested these early settlers. Despite these hardships, Jane and her family remained on their land in Chase County for the rest of their lives.⁶

The Shaft homestead was located along a well-traveled route. Family recollections printed in the *Chase County Historical Sketches* suggest the Shafts were accustomed to interacting with local Native Americans, many of whom lived in east-central Kansas and included the Osage, Kaw, and Potawatomi Indians. Additionally, their home served as the area post-office for several years. Jane operated a post office as did her son William H., who served as the official postmaster of Silver Creek from August 24, 1863 through 1867. Her son David was the postmaster in 1869 and again from 1871 through 1877.⁷ In 1881, this Silver Creek post office was absorbed by the Crawfordsville post office, which became the Clements post office in 1884.⁸

Over the years, Jane Shaft hosted various events and celebrations at her house. One of the area's first Sunday school classes met at the house. Jane was a charter member of the Presbyterian Church in Clements when it was organized in the 1880s. Many Chase County residents gathered at the Shaft home for a Fourth of July celebration in 1860. Featured speakers included Colonel Mouton and S. N. Wood, an attorney from Council Grove who also ranched in Chase County. Mr. and Mrs. John Mack and Elisha Marden also participated.⁹ On New Year's Day of 1872, the Old Settlers Organization met at the Shaft farm for a social and dance. The men went on a deer hunt. William H. Shaft helped organize the group and served as its president. To qualify as a member, one had to have come to the county prior to 1870.¹⁰

Early twentieth century U.S. Census records confirm that several of the Shaft children remained in the Clements vicinity and raised their own children and grandchildren. The 1887 Official State Atlas of Kansas documents both Clay and John as farmers and stock raisers on the original homesteaded land. A 1901 plat map (see figure 3) documents brothers Clay, John, and David Shaft as owners of the farmland. The map

⁶ For additional historic context about pioneer women, see: Joanna L. Stratton, *Pioneer Women: Voices from the Kansas Frontier* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1981); Glenda Riley, *The Female Frontier: A Comparative View of Women on the Prairie and the Plains* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1988).

⁷ *Chase County Historical Sketches, Vol. 1* (Cottonwood Falls, KS: Chase County Historical Society, 1940), 28.

⁸ "Kansas Counties," Kansas State Historical Society website: <http://www.ksks.org/genealogists/places/counties.htm>

⁹ *Chase County Historical Sketches, Vol. 1* (Cottonwood Falls, KS: Chase County Historical Society, 1940), 378.

¹⁰ *Chase County Historical Sketches, Vol. IV* (Cottonwood Falls, KS: Chase County Historical Society, 1984), 468.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6 Shaft, William C. & Jane, House
Chase County, Kansas

labels the area as the Gold Standard Fruit and Stock Farm. Jane remained on the farmstead for many years and she died May 25, 1903 at age 82.

*Architecture*¹¹

The Shaft House is an example of the Gable-Front-and-Wing property type. Often, early vernacular houses in Kansas with this form were built in phases with the addition of a wing sited perpendicular to a pre-existing gable-front or side-gabled building. Differences in the house's stonework clearly delineate a phased construction. As was typical with stone houses of this period, the first stage was one-and-a-half stories with a rectangular footprint.

The Gable-Front-and-Wing form evolved from the addition of a side-gabled wing at a right angle to the Gable-Front National Folk House form to produce a compound gable-front-and-wing shape that shares a single roof ridgeline. A one-story porch was typically placed within the "L" made by the two wings. Some grew in stages as two-story front-gabled wings were added to simple Hall-and-Parlor and I-House National Folk House forms or side-gabled wings were added to a Gable-Front national Folk House form. As a result, the roof ridge of the gable-front section was often higher or lower than that of the connecting wing.

The Shaft House was built with limestone quarried from the bluffs northwest of the house and walnut from trees in the homestead timber. The stones used on the front of the house were dressed more formally than those on the remainder of the house. As is common with mid-nineteenth century Gable-Front-and-Wing houses, the stone walls are load bearing, it features symmetrical fenestration, the stone lintels and sills are tooled, there are tooled quoins at the building's corners, and there are wood double-hung sash windows with multiple panes. These wood windows are assembled with wood pegs and have weighted cords.

Originally, the roof featured wood shingles, with a gutter system that deposited rainwater in the underground cistern at the back of the house. Today, the roof is covered with standing-seam metal and the gutter system is no longer extant, but the cistern remains.

The architectural significance of the house is reflected in the work of the owners and builders who responded to the availability of local building materials.

¹¹ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 2002), 88-93; Sally F. Schwenk, "Late Nineteenth Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS" National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 2007), F-7-13.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 7 Shaft, William C. & Jane, House
Chase County, Kansas

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 & Photos Page 8

Shaft, William C. & Jane, House
Chase County, Kansas

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes the Jane Shaft House, which is located northeast of Clements at 1682 FP Road. The nominated property includes 0.9 acres in Section 14, Township 20, Range 6E within the following described tract: NE ¼ S CRK & W CO RD LS R/W.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The house and the 0.9 acres that accompany it are included within the nominated boundaries.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Location: 1682 FP Road, Cedar Point, Chase County, KS

Photographer: Sarah Martin

Date: October 9, 2009

Digital images on file with the Kansas State Historical Society, 6425 SW 6th Ave., Topeka, KS

Photo 1 of 12	North (side) elevation of 1857 section in foreground; 1868 addition in the background, facing S
Photo 2 of 12	South (side) elevation on the left and east (front) elevation on the right - 1868 section, facing NW
Photo 3 of 12	Closeup of date stone on the east (front) elevation of the 1868 section, facing W
Photo 4 of 12	West (rear) elevation and south (side) elevation of the 1868 section, facing NE
Photo 5 of 12	Closeup of quoining detail at the southeast corner of the 1868 section, facing N
Photo 6 of 12	Interior, fireplace along the north wall of the 1857 section, facing NE
Photo 7 of 12	Interior of the 1857 section, facing W
Photo 8 of 12	Interior, looking into the SE corner of the 1868 section, facing S
Photo 9 of 12	Interior, staircase leading up to second floor, facing W
Photo 10 of 12	Interior, second floor of the 1868 section, facing E
Photo 11 of 12	Close-up of window
Photo 12 of 12	Overall view of the basement, showing hewn log supports

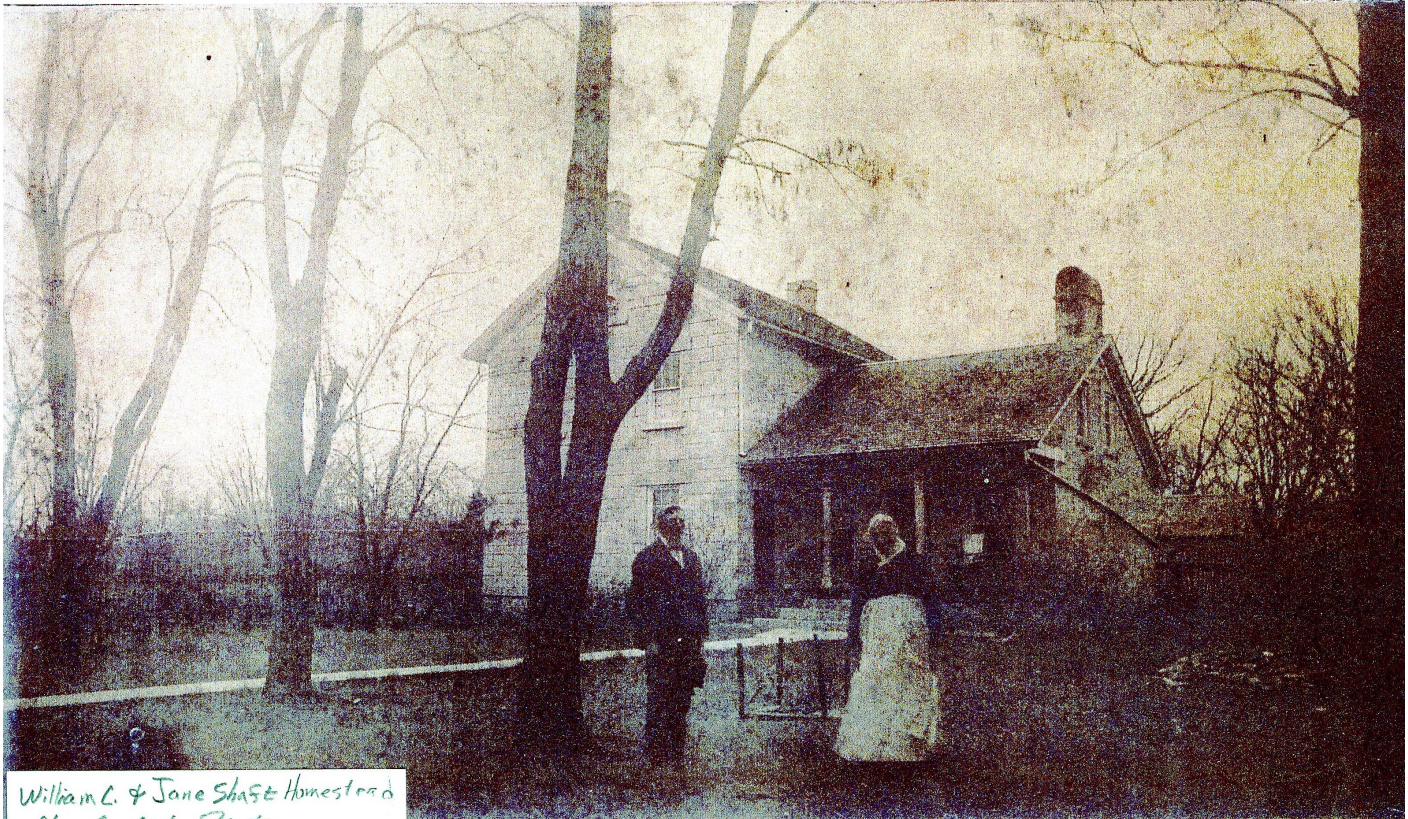
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Add'l
Documentation Page 9

Shaft, William C. & Jane, House
Chase County, Kansas

Figure 1: Historic Image of Jane Shaft and son David Shaft, circa 1900.



Jane Shaft and son David
about 1900 Clements, KS (later view - Jane is older here)

Figure 2: Jane Parker Shaft seated next to fireplace, undated



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Add'l

Section number Documentation Page 10

Shaft, William C. & Jane, House
Chase County, Kansas

Figure 3: *Plat Book of Chase County*. Minneapolis, MN: Northwest Publishing Company, 1901, p. 17. Accessed online at: www.kansasmemory.org.

